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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/755,182	01/08/2001	Yutaka Katsuyama	826.1411D2	3899
21171	7590	08/25/2004	EXAMINER	
STAAS & HALSEY LLP SUITE 700 1201 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005			COUSO, YON JUNG	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2625	
DATE MAILED: 08/25/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/755,182	KATSUYAMA, YUTAKA
Examiner	Art Unit	
Yon Couso	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 4/29/04 and 6/3/04.
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 15,28,39 and 45-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 15,28,39 and 45-50 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/14/04.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: _____.

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 15, 28, and 39 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.
2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 15, 28, 39, 48-50 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over by Bessho, 5,898,795 in view of Naoi et al, 5,907,630.

For claims 15, 28, and 39, a ruled line extracting apparatus, computer-readable storage medium, and method are provided by Bessho in at least the abstract. A straight line extracting means for extracting information of one or more straight line patterns from an input image is provided by Bessho in at least Fig. 2, block 10, or Fig. 3, block 20, providing for an input image, and at least the paragraph bridging cols. 8-9, and the first three full paragraphs in c. 9, and at least Figs. 4-5, 7-12, 13B, and 15, where extracting is explicitly provided by Bessho. Straight line deleting means for determining whether or not to delete one among the one or more straight line patterns by using at least one of information about a shape of the one among the one or more straight line patterns is provided by Bessho in at least the first two full paragraphs in c. 11 by shape, and alternately in the first two full paragraphs in c. 12. Even though Bessho does not teach in detail on information about a ratio between a height and a width of the one among the one or more straight line patterns, Bessho clearly teaches shape information which broadly includes a ratio between a height and a width. Naoi teaches information

about a ratio between a height and a width of the one among the one or more straight line patterns (column 16, lines 4-24) in the image extracting system where the ratio information is used in deciding whether to delete the pattern within the mask or not (column 16, lines 16-19). Given the references at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art to incorporate Naoi which utilizes a ratio between a height and a width to determine whether to delete some information in the image extracting system into Bessho's ruled line extracting system because Bessho already teaches straight line deleting means for determining whether or not to delete one among the one or more straight line patterns by using at least one of information about a shape.

For claims 48-50, a ruled line extracting apparatus, computer-readable storage medium, and method are provided by Bessho in at least the abstract. A straight line extracting means for extracting information of one or more straight line patterns from an input image is provided by Bessho in at least Fig. 2, block 10, or Fig. 3, block 20, providing for an input image, and at least the paragraph bridging cols. 8-9, and the first three full paragraphs in c. 9, and at least Figs. 4-5, 7-12, 13B, and 15, where extracting is explicitly provided by Bessho. Straight line deleting means for determining whether or not to delete one among the one or more straight line patterns by using at least one of information about a distance of the one among the one or more straight line patterns is provided by Bessho in at least the first two full paragraphs in c. 11 and alternately in the first two full paragraphs in c. 12. Even though Bessho does not teach in detail on deleting a first line pattern when the length or distance of the first straight line pattern is

less than a threshold value, Bessho clearly teaches distance information (the first two full paragraphs in c. 11 and the first two full paragraphs in c. 12). Naoi teaches deleting a first line pattern when the distance of the first straight line pattern is less than a threshold value (column 21, line 61-column 22, line 10) in the image extracting system where the distance information is used in deciding whether to delete the pattern within the mask or not (column 21, line 61-column 22, line 10). Given the references at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art to incorporate Naoi which utilizes a distance information to determine whether to delete some information in the image extracting system into Bessho's ruled line extracting system because Bessho already teaches straight line deleting means for determining whether or not to delete one among the one or more straight line patterns by using at least one of information about a distance.

3. Claims 45-47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bessho, 5,898,795.

For claims 45-47, a ruled line extracting apparatus, computer-readable storage medium, and method are provided by Bessho in at least the abstract. A straight line extracting means for extracting information of one or more straight line patterns from an input image is provided by Bessho in at least Fig. 2, block 10, or Fig. 3, block 20, providing for an input image, and at least the paragraph bridging cols. 8-9, and the first three full paragraphs in c. 9, and at least Figs. 4-5, 7-12, 13B, and 15, where extracting is explicitly provided by Bessho. Straight line deleting means for determining whether or not to delete one among the one or more straight line patterns by using at least one of

information about a length of the one among the one or more straight line patterns is provided by Bessho in at least the first two full paragraphs in c. 11 and alternately in the first two full paragraphs in c. 12. Even though Bessho does not teach in detail on deleting a first line pattern when the length of the first straight line pattern is less than a threshold value, Bessho clearly teaches deleting small black runs (column 12, line 53). This is a clear suggestion that the Bessho delete black runs that are less than a threshold. Given the reference at the time the invention was made, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skills in the art to delete a first line pattern when the length of the first straight line pattern is less than a threshold value because Bessho discloses that the small black runs are deleted and that suggests that deleting a first line pattern when the length of the first straight line pattern is less than a threshold value.

4. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

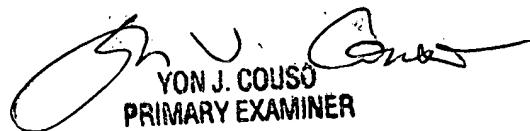
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of

the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

5. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yon Couso whose telephone number is (703) 305-4779. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am –5:00 pm from Monday to Friday

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bhavesh Mehta, can be reached on (703) 308-5246. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3800.



YON J. COUSO
PRIMARY EXAMINER

Yjc

August 23, 2004